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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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REFERENCE COPY

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 9 December 1952

SUBJECT 1. The Chemical Laboratory
of the Ministry of Foreign Trade
2. Locomotive Factory and Rationing

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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The Chemical Laboratory

1. The agency most important to the export of materials is the Chemical Laboratory of the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The Laboratory is located in the Central Customs building in Sofia, approximately 400 meters south of the railroad station on the main highway leading into the city.
2. A certain Stoyanov, a Party member who is not professionally qualified for the position because he doesn't have a degree in chemistry, is the laboratory director. Other employees are:
 - a. Seven chemical analysts;
 - b. Two assistants; and
 - c. Ten laboratory assistants.
3. The function of the Chemical Laboratory is to analyze samples of goods which are produced nationally for export, as well as samples of import goods, to determine whether the goods satisfy the requirements set by the import and export trade treaties. Informant was not in a position to note the quantity of goods imported and exported or to identify the foreign countries involved in the trade because the samples for analysis were furnished by Customs in small glass containers with only an order number to identify them.
4. In August 1951, some quantities of wine were exported to the USSR. On this occasion, two Soviet chemists arrived in Sofia, personally selected the wine samples, and carefully followed the process of analysis of the products.

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5. Medicine analyses are made in the chemical laboratory of the Ministry of Public Health.

Locomotive Factory and Rationing

6. Locomotives are allegedly to be built in the Dimitrov locomotive repair shop which is located near the Sofia railroad station. However, because of a lack of technicians and specialized personnel, no progress has been made to date.
7. Bread and fats are still rationed although it is possible to buy both on the free market. Prices are as follows:
- a. Dark bread, rationed, 300 grams per day, 15 leva;
 - b. White bread, 300-gram loaf on the free market, 40 leva;
 - c. Fats, 500 to 600 leva per kilogram in the stores; and
 - d. Fats, 400 to 500 leva per kilogram on the free market.

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